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self-interest might lead them to shield the magnates from the attacks of an indignant public.

In the same way Mr. Yerkes planned to get legislation which would enable him to get the stock of the new lines on the North and West sides of Chicago into the hands of the public. The bonds, which represent all the capital invested in the roads, have already been bought by the people. If the Yerkes franchises are extended for fifty years he will be able to secure as many millions as the dishonest Pennsylvania officials have given to Mr. Yerkes' partners in Philadelphia at the expense of the city.

WILLIAM HILL.

The Manufacture and Properties of Structural Steel. By HARRY HUSE CAMPBELL. New York: The Scientific Publishing Company, 1896. 8vo, pp. xxi+397.

IN this admirable work the author has rendered a service to all those who desire information about the modern processes employed in the manufacture of steel. The prominence which our country has recently assumed as a producer of iron and steel, and the likelihood that our iron masters will soon become aggressive competitors in the world's markets, have recently directed much attention to these great industries, and therefore this volume is very timely. An intelligent view of the international situation is wholly impossible without a knowledge of the leading characteristics of the iron-ore supplies of the leading producing nations and of the respective advantages offered by the several processes of steel manufacture. The latter information, heretofore very difficult to obtain, has been well presented in limited space by Mr. Campbell. Some few years ago one of our leading statisticians, disclaiming all technical knowledge, ventured in a paper of some length a prediction as to the future location of our iron and steel industries. It is perhaps unnecessary to say that his reputation as a scientific observer and writer was not advanced by this paper among those having a practical knowledge of the manufacture of iron and steel. The mere proximity of the raw materials of iron does not in itself assure the location of furnaces at or near the place where the raw materials are found. Because, for instance, the ore may contain impurities which prevent the use of the cheapest methods of manufacture, and the coal may not be a coking coal.

As Mr. Campbell did not set out to give a complete account of the manufacture of steel, starting with the raw materials of pig iron, he has little to say about iron ores. To the student of the iron and steel industries the most valuable portions of this book are the chapters on the several processes of steel manufacture, the chapter devoted to the influence of certain elements on the physical properties of steel, and the chapter on "certain costs of manufacture." These chapters are the backbone of the volume. The discussion of the different methods of making steel and of the various instruments employed, and the examination of the effects of various elements on the physical properties of steel are by far the most satisfactory that I have thus far met with. The treatment is thoroughly up to date, and the reader is not forced to read interminable pages devoted to methods which were either never largely used or that were long since antiquated. The chapter on the cost of production by the several processes and in the different localities leaves something to be desired. There is occasionally indefiniteness where greater exactness seems possible, for Mr. Campbell has a very wide practical knowledge of conditions. Then, too, the difficulties of making steel in the South have been overemphasized. This Mr. Campbell himself now recognizes and has stated as much in a letter which I take the liberty in part to subjoin: "I have come to the conclusion," says he, referring to his book, "that I may have overestimated the difficulty of making good iron in the South. If Alabama can keep its silicon below 1 per cent. or even come near to it, and keep its sulphur below .10 or .12 per cent., there is absolutely no reason why a basic open-hearth [plant] cannot be run commercially and regularly in that state."

In this volume it might fairly have been hoped that we should not again encounter the time-honored argument that we are handicapped in the race with the other great iron-producing nations because of the wide separation of the raw materials used in making iron. It occurs, however. In speaking of the development of the iron industry in this country Mr. Campbell says: "This wonderful progress has not been the unearned harvest of bounteous nature, for it has been accomplished in defiance of mighty obstacles in the enormous distances through which the raw materials must be carried" (p. 1). This statement is very misleading. In some districts coking coal, iron ore, and limestone occur in the closest proximity; such is the case in the Tennessee-Alabama region. But he probably refers to the great distance

which the ores of the Lake Superior region are carried. Truly these ores are carried vast distances, but does not their high character warrant this? Can either England or Germany obtain ores equally rich in metallic iron and free from injurious ingredients any nearer at hand? Again, can the iron masters of Germany or England obtain equally good ores at as low a cost as the iron masters of Ohio and western Pennsylvania secure Lake Superior ores?

GEORGE G. TUNELL.

I Diseredati e i loro Diritti. By PIETRO PELLEGRINI. Borgo a Mozzano. Tipografia Editrice N. Vannini, 1897. 8vo, pp. 205.

THE title of this book, *The Disinherited and their Rights*, suggests at once the class of literature to which it belongs. The closing decades of the century have been prolific in books dealing with the economic condition of those who have failed to maintain their adjustment in the ever-advancing capitalistic régime. Of these works Italy has produced her share. The younger writers of that country especially are socialistic. The corruptions of the Roman church and its disgraceful struggle to regain temporal power have driven the most intelligent classes into open rebellion against the mysticism of Christianity, and this hostile spirit is manifesting itself in the literary expression of naturalistic and materialistic doctrines. Spencer and Darwin are accepted perhaps for more than they really stand for. Karl Marx finds many devoted adherents. The materialistic conception of history, as set forth by him, is accepted and made the basis of social and economic discussion.

While this is true with perhaps the majority of the younger Italian economic writers, the book before us is written with a sense of that moderation or measure by which the Greek strain in the Italian blood is none too often manifested. The author believes that the material element in social progress has been unduly emphasized. While modestly disclaiming an attempt to make a scientific study, he seeks to show that this element is only one of many diverse and concomitant factors of which the social order is a resultant. This specific task, to those who do not accept the materialistic conception of history, may seem self-imposed. And indeed a part of the book does appear on this side of the water to be a superfluous contribution to economic